

Geoff Collinson (Huntingdale GC) on his 2013 trip to Scotland & England

Editor Note: Geoff's personal itinerary featured 20 rounds on 18 courses in 22 days!

My number one tip for all golf travellers is, wherever possible, to ensure you have a caddie to guide you around unfamiliar courses - especially in the UK and Ireland. In addition, the extra set of expert eyes for finding errant balls and reading unfamiliar greens is invaluable and enhances the overall experience of the unique and challenging golf courses.

The World's Greatest Fairways on my 2013 Tour!

Cruden Bay is a very interesting course which weaves its way around tall seaside dunes. The course has some similarities to Ballybunion in terms of the landscape it is set in.



Castle Stuart is a magnificent new course on the banks of Loch Ness. It was truly the stand out course on this tour. Very interesting and challenging while most holes have been framed magnificently using Loch Ness and other numerous natural features. Must play course!

Royal Dornoch is a grand old dame. A great golfing experience and has some similarities with Castle Stuart in terms of its play along the water's edge. Watch out for families sunbathing on the beach in 15°C temperatures!



Turnberry Ailsa is one of the best British Open courses with magnificent golf facilities to make a great all-round golfing experience - a course of infinite character and class.



I have now played **Prestwick** on two separate occasions. It was home to many of the early Open Championships. Without a doubt, playing this course is the most fun I have ever had treading the fairways. It is quirky, eccentric, surprising, interesting and an authentic look back to how golf was played in past centuries. The hospitality and service is first rate. Prestwick is a completely different and absolutely enjoyable course. It would be impossible to play without a caddie.

Having been to **St Andrews** on many occasions I firmly believe the best way to enjoy the wonderful golf courses and very special atmosphere is by working with Greg at Global Golf & the "Old Course Experience" to arrange guaranteed tee times. In fact, it is the only way to do it properly if you are travelling in a reasonably large group. As always, caddies are a must and go to enhance the whole experience.



Kingsbarns is one of the best courses you will ever play. It is a newer course which is magnificently designed and an absolute delight to play. Visually beautiful with good challenges and facilities.

Royal Lytham and St Anne's is a great Open Championship course. Very interesting, very challenging and a true test of course management and strategy. It has an incredible 206 bunkers (who counted those?) strategically placed on the course together with uncompromising rough. A golf course that is a true test of ability and it is very satisfying at the end of the round having a quiet drink and reflection in the Tudor style clubhouse after a day of concentration.

Finally, I must make a comment about my coach & friend, Tim Stone. In Scotland they call him "The Wee Pro" and in China at Mission Hills they call him "The Little Dragon". However I simply know him as the best professional host of a golf trip!